

## House Resolution 1090

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Geisinger of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proclaiming February 14, 2008, as "A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Day at the  
2 Capitol"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recognizes "A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect  
4 Day at the Capitol" in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects; and

5 WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart that are present  
6 at birth, and the defects can range in severity from simple problems, such as holes between  
7 the chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one  
8 or more chambers or valves of the heart; and

9 WHEREAS, more than 1 million Americans have some form of congenital heart defect, and  
10 such defects are the number one cause of death in infants; and

11 WHEREAS, out of 1 thousand births, eight babies will have some form of congenital heart  
12 defect, and approximately 35 thousand babies are born with such defects each year; and

13 WHEREAS, twice as many children die each year from congenital heart disease compared  
14 to childhood cancers, yet funding for pediatric cancer research is five times higher than  
15 funding for congenital heart disease; and

16 WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the nation's leading killer in both men and women  
17 among all racial and ethnic groups, and almost 1 million Americans die of cardiovascular  
18 disease each year, resulting in up to 42 percent of all deaths in the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States has a severe shortage of cardiac centers that are fully  
20 equipped to provide care for adults living with complex heart defects; and

1 WHEREAS, the presence of a serious congenital heart defect often results in an enormous  
2 emotional and financial strain on young families who are already in a vulnerable stage of  
3 their lives and can require a family to dedicate extensive financial resources for assistance  
4 and care both within and outside the hospital environment.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
6 the members of this body, on behalf of the citizens of Georgia, hereby proclaim February 14,  
7 2008, as "A Day of Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Day at the Capitol."